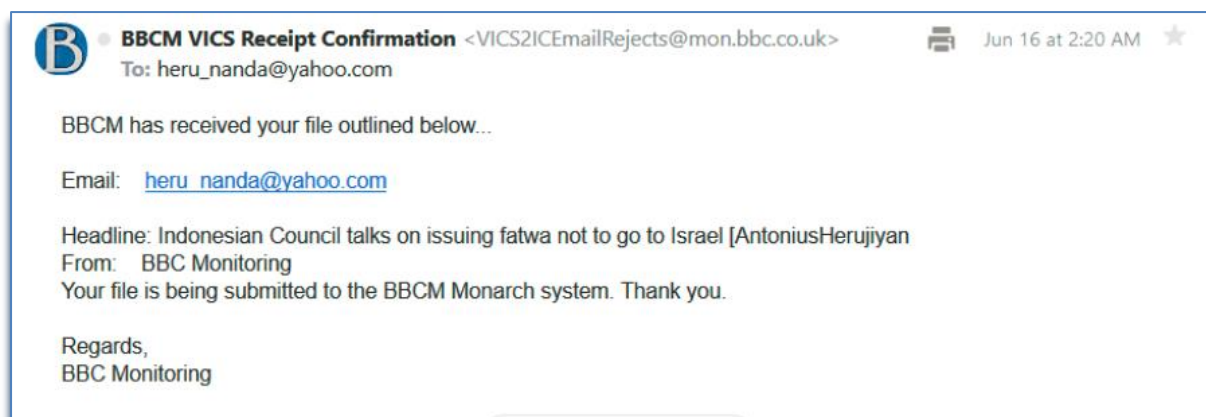




Indonesian Council Talks on Issuing *Fatwa* Not To Go to Israel



[Antonius Herujiyanto AH12_140618]

The General Chairman of the Indonesian Ulema Council or MUI, cleric Ma'ruf Amin, has said that his institution will carefully discuss and deeply find appropriate steps before issuing fatwa [religious ruling] on banning (Indonesian Muslims) to go to Israel. He said Thursday (on 14 June) that vice-Speaker of DPR, Fahri Hamzah [who is from the hardliner Islamic Prosperous Justice Party or PKS], had said that the Council should have issued such a fatwa.

According to the cleric, not all things are to be based on fatwa since it could only be issued when the case has got to do with religious affairs. Not those of political and diplomatic ones. There are many appropriate reasons to find and procedures to take before MUI comes up with a decision to issue fatwa.

Mentioning that the nature of Israeli cases were diplomatic ones, cleric Ma'ruf explained that they had got nothing to do with Islamic religious affairs. It should be understood, therefore, that MUI had never issued fatwa on banning Indonesian Muslims to go to Israel.

He further said that the fatwa recently proposed by PKS legislator seemed to be only based on the "diplomatic row" visit of a noted Indonesian ulema, cleric Yahya Cholil Staquf, to Israel. It should have been the state's business and not that of MUI.

He also said that on top of being able to issue fatwa, MUI could also produce recommendations and demands or taustiyah.

Source: *MJ/Sl*, [kiblat/2018/06/14/mui-akan-kaji-fatwa-haram-ke-israel/](https://kiblat.com/2018/06/14/mui-akan-kaji-fatwa-haram-ke-israel/), "MUI Akan Kaji Fatwa Haram ke Israel (MUI to look into legislator's demand to issue fatwa on banning Indonesian Muslims to go to Israel)", in *Indonesian*, 14 June 18.

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